

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-88 (canceled)

89. (Previously presented) A method for determining the risk of tumor recurrence or spread in a patient suffering from prostate cancer, said method comprising:

(a) determining a BAG-1 gene expression level in a cancerous prostate tissue sample from said patient, wherein said BAG-1 gene expression level is determined by measuring cytosolic BAG-1 protein; and

(b) comparing said BAG-1 gene expression level in said patient to a reference BAG-1 gene expression level, said reference BAG-1 gene expression level being a level of BAG-1 gene expression above which correlates with an increased risk of tumor recurrence or spread and below which correlates with a decreased risk of tumor recurrence or spread, thereby determining the risk of tumor recurrence or spread in said patient.

90. (Previously presented) The method of claim 89, wherein said tumor spread comprises tumor metastasis.

91. (Canceled)

92. (Previously presented) The method of claim 89 94, wherein said BAG-1 protein level is determined with an antibody specific for BAG-1 protein.

93. (Canceled)

94. (Canceled)

95. (Previously presented) The method of claim 89, wherein said BAG-1 gene encodes a protein selected from the group consisting of BAG-1, BAG-1N, BAG-1M and BAG-1L.

96. (Previously presented) The method of claim 89, wherein said BAG-1 gene expression level is determined using an immunoassay.

97. (Previously presented) The method of claim 96, wherein said immunoassay is an immuno-polymerase chain reaction (immuno-PCR) assay.

98. (Previously presented) The method of claim 89, wherein said reference BAG-1 gene expression level is a level of BAG-1 gene expression above which correlates with increased risk of tumor recurrence or spread in a first group of patients compared to a second group of patients, said second group of patients having BAG-1 gene expression levels below said reference level.

99. (Previously presented) A method for determining a prognosis of survival in a patient suffering from prostate cancer, said method comprising:

(a) determining a BAG-1 gene expression level in a cancerous prostate tissue sample from said patient, wherein said BAG-1 gene expression level is determined by measuring cytosolic BAG-1 protein; and

(b) comparing said BAG-1 gene expression level in said patient to a reference BAG-1 gene expression level, said reference BAG-1 gene expression level being a level of BAG-1 gene expression above which correlates with decreased survival and below which correlates with increased survival, thereby determining a prognosis of survival in said patient.

100. (Previously presented) The method of claim 99, wherein said survival is overall survival.

101. (Previously presented) The method of claim 99, wherein said survival is distant metastasis-free survival.

102. (Canceled)

103. (Previously presented) The method of claim 102, wherein said BAG-1 protein level is determined with an antibody specific for BAG-1 protein.

104. (Canceled)

105. (Canceled)

106. (Previously presented) The method of claim 99, wherein said BAG-1 gene encodes a protein selected from the group consisting of BAG-1, BAG-1N, BAG-1M and BAG-1L.

107. (Previously presented) The method of claim 99, wherein said BAG-1 gene expression level is determined using an immunoassay.

108. (Previously presented) The method of claim 107, wherein said immunoassay is an immuno-polymerase chain reaction (immuno-PCR) assay.

109. (Previously presented) The method of claim 99, wherein said reference BAG-1 gene expression level is a level of BAG-1 gene expression above which correlates with decreased survival in a first group of patients compared to a second group of patients. said second group of patients having BAG-1 gene expression levels below said reference level.

110. (Previously presented) The method of claim 95, wherein said BAG-1 gene encodes BAG-1.

111. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 95, wherein said BAG-1 gene encodes BAG-1N.

112. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 95, wherein said BAG-1 gene encodes BAG-1M.

113. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 95, wherein said BAG-1 gene encodes BAG-1L.

114. (Previously presented) The method of claim 106, wherein said BAG-1 gene encodes BAG-1.

115. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 106, wherein said BAG-1 gene encodes BAG-1N.

116. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 106, wherein said BAG-1 gene encodes BAG-1M.

117. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 106, wherein said BAG-1 gene encodes BAG-1L.